

PORTABLE APPARATUS FOR CARRYING A STROLLER

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH
OR DEVELOPMENT

Not Applicable.

REFERENCE TO A MICROFICHE APPENDIX

Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to a portable carrying apparatus and, more particularly, to a portable sac for carrying a stroller on a user's back and including open top and bottom end portions for allowing the stroller to be rolled while housed within the sac.

PRIOR ART

The use of strollers, backpacks and other child-supporting devices of various design are known in the prior art. More specifically, strollers, backpacks and other child-supporting devices and heretofore utilized for the purpose of supporting and transporting children are known to consist basically of familiar, expected and obvious structural configurations, notwithstanding the myriad of designs encompassed by the crowded prior art which have been developed.

People who travel to vacation destinations often spend a great mount of time touring that vacation destination on foot. For example, if a person travels to an amusement park or a museum, the entire time at such a destination is spent walking from one attraction to another. When people travel on vacation, they often carry a substantial amount of equipment with them. The equipment that is carried typically includes cameras, food, water, rain gear, sun tanning lotions and the like. If people are travelling with children, the amount of materials that must be carried while walking

increases dramatically. Items such as diaper bags, strollers, bottles and the like must now be carried. Likewise, if a vacation is taken at the beach, yet additional equipment must be carried. Such equipment includes beach chairs, umbrellas, playpens, towels, blankets and the like.

In prior art, there have been a number of devices to assist people carry a large amount of equipment as they walk. Such prior art devices commonly fall into the categories of backpacks, carry bags or pull carts. The preferred choice of vacationers for carrying equipment while walking is a cart or stroller. In prior art, there are many types of carts and strollers intended for different purposes. Carts and strollers can hold a large amount of equipment and often include a collapsible umbrella for protection from harsh elements.

Yet, a person can pull same with minimum effort. Unfortunately, such strollers often require a person to maintain both hands thereon and thereby do not allow free movement of an operator's hands. Furthermore, at vacation spots such as a beach, for example, a stroller cannot rolled on the sand and, therefore, must be carried. This causes obvious shortcomings.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the foregoing background, it is therefore an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus for allowing a person to easily carry an umbrella-style stroller in a hands-free manner. These and other objects, features, and advantages of the invention are provided by an apparatus for carrying a stroller, which includes a sac having a hollow interior and includes open top and bottom end portions for allowing a stroller to be positioned therethrough and supported within the sac. Such a sac is preferably formed from waterproof material. The apparatus further includes a support device connected adjacent to the bottom end portion and for selectively supporting a stroller in a substantially vertically position within the sac.

A plurality of elongate straps each has opposed end portions connected to the top and bottom end portions of the sac respectively and for allowing same to be removably positioned on a back of a user. The apparatus may further include an elongate pad member connected to the sac and extending from the top end portion to

the bottom end portion thereof. The pad member helps provide comfort to a user when the apparatus is carried thereby. The apparatus may further include a plurality of pockets connected to the sac and extending outwardly therefrom. The plurality of pockets each preferably includes an elastic upper end portion for assisting to maintain objects therein respectively.

The apparatus may further include a plurality of adjustable clips cooperating with the plurality of straps respectively and for allowing a length thereof to be selectively adjusted. Advantageously, the apparatus may be adapted to fit different sized users. The apparatus may further include device for selectively closing the top end portion of the sac and for assisting to stabilize a stroller positioned therein. Such a device preferably is a drawstring connected around a perimeter thereof. Furthermore, the supporting device may include a strap and a clip for selectively maintaining a stroller within a cavity of the sac.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

The novel features believed to be characteristic of this invention are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, both as to its organization and method of operation, together with further objects and advantages thereof, may best be understood by reference to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view showing an apparatus for transporting a stroller, in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a rear elevational view of the apparatus shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a front elevational view of the apparatus shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken along line 4-4 in FIG. 3; and

FIG. 5 is a partial perspective view of FIG. 1 showing a selectively lockable support member for supporting a stroller within the apparatus.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention will now be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which a preferred embodiment of the invention is

shown. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiment set forth herein. Rather, this embodiment is provided so that this application will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the true scope of the invention to those skilled in the art.

The apparatus of this invention is referred to generally in FIG. 1 by the reference numeral 10 and is intended to comfortably transport an umbrella-stroller either on a user's back or along the ground. It should be understood that the apparatus 10 may be used to transport many different types of strollers and, therefore, should not be construed as being limited to transporting only umbrella-strollers. The apparatus 10 includes a sac 12 preferably made from flexible, waterproof material such as neoprene material, for example.

Such a sac defines the length of the apparatus 10 and is formed to be sufficiently wide for receiving a conventional stroller 11 therethrough. Accordingly, sac 12 has a hollow interior for receiving stroller 11 and further includes open top and bottom end portions, respectively. Advantageously, wheels of a conventional stroller 11 may extend outwardly from such open end portions so that the stroller 11 can be pulled along while contained within the apparatus 10.

Apparatus 10 further includes a plurality of straps 13 having opposed end portions connected adjacent to the top and bottom end portions of sac 12. Such a plurality of straps 13 preferably include padded members 14 respectively extending along a length thereof for providing comfort and support during use. Apparatus 10 further includes a plurality of pockets 16 connected to the outer surface of sac 12 and disposed between its top and bottom end portions. Such pockets 16 are able to receive objects therein for providing further storage capacity. In addition, pockets 16 may be shaped to accommodate various sized objects therein.

Now referring to FIG. 2, apparatus 10 includes a drawstring 15 connected to the perimeter of the top end portion thereof. Such a drawstring 15 is preferably a conventional drawstring and allows the top end portion of sac 12 to be selectively tightened and loosened to thereby assist in securely maintaining a stroller 11 within sac 12. A support strap or fastening member 17 includes opposed end portions diametrically connected to opposite sides of the bottom end portion of sac 12. In

particular, a first end portion is provided with a female clip portion and a second end portion is provided with a male clip portion. Such clip portions are removably engageable with one another to thereby support a stroller 11 within sac 12 and prevent same from falling through the open bottom end portion thereof.

As perhaps best shown in FIG. 5, support strap 17 is engageable at the bottom end portion of sac 12 wherein it can be positioned between a support frame of a conventional stroller 11. Thus, when sac 12 is moved to a substantially vertical position, a stroller 11 can be maintained at a substantially stable orientation within the cavity of sac 12 with its wheels or handles exposed, for example. Of course, other conventional support clips or fastening members may be employed, as well known to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Now referring to FIG. 3, apparatus 10 further includes an elongate pad member 19 extending from opposed top and bottom end portions of sac 12 and connected to the outer surface thereof. Apparatus 10 further includes a plurality of clips or fastening members 18 for selectively adjusting the respective lengths of straps 13, as desired by a user. Such fastening members 18 are similar to fastening member 17 and help disengage straps 13 at the lower portions thereof, respectively. Accordingly, fastening members 18 are connected to straps 13 adjacent to the bottom end portion of sac 12.

Now referring to FIG. 4, pockets 16 extend outwardly from an outer surface of sac 12 and include an elastic upper end portion 20 for assisting to maintain objects therein. In particular, elastic portion 20 has a relaxed position which helps to maintain pockets 16 closed and has an extended or stretched position for allowing pockets 16 to be opened in a conventional manner.

While the invention has been described with respect to certain specific embodiments, it will be appreciated that many modifications and changes may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit of the invention. It is intended, therefore, by the appended claims to cover all such modifications and changes as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.